Agreement with Japan for manufacturing signalling equipment

*333. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any technical collaboration agreement has recently been signed with Japan for manufacturing signalling equipment in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) An agreement has been reached between Instrumentation Ltd., Kota and M|s. Kyosan Electric Mfg. Company of Japan for manufacture of Railway Signalling Equipment. The agreement envisages transfer of technical know-how for manufacture of Railway Signalling Equipment as well as Systems.

Capacity utilisation of power projects

*334. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been shortage in the capacity utilisation in power projects during the current year as compared to the years 1985 and 1986; and

(b) if so, what are the relevant figures showing the percentage of capacity utilisation of power projects during these years and what steps have been taken by Government to increase the capacity utilisation of the power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The all-India Plant Load Factor of thermal stations during 1985-86 and 1986-87 was 52.4 per cent and 53.2 per cent respectively. In the current year, during April to October, the PLF was 53.8 per cent. The measures taken to improve the performance of thermal stations include assistance to State Electricity Boards for undertaking plant betterment programmes, procurement of requisite quantity and quality of coal, training of operation and maintenance personnel and early stabilisation of newly commissioned units. A Centrally sponsored Renovation and Modernisation programme is also under implementation. The utilisation of hydel capacity mainly depends on the reservoir levels.

Recommendations of high power pay committee on public sector employees

*335. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 243 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 1987 and state: whether Government have since considered the recommendations of the High Power Pay Committee on pay revision of public sector employees; and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): The High Power Pay Committee has not yet submitted its report. Its tenure has been extended under directions of Supreme Court till end of June, 1988.

Collaboration between Kothari Foods and General Foods of USA

*336. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a policy decision not to allow use of foreign trade marks for trade within the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Kothari General Foods has come out with a product called 'Tang';

(c) whether this is a foreign trade mark, or a Hybrid trade mark or an Indian trade mark; and

(d) if it is a foreign trade mark, what action is proposed to be taken by Government in the matter and by when?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The foreign collaboration approvals granted by Government contain a standard condition that foreign brand names will not be allowed for use on the products for internal sales, although there is no objection to their use on their exports.

(b) to (d) M/s. Kothari General Foods Corporation Limited, Madras have informed that the trade mark 'Tang' has been assigned to them by M/s. General Foods Corporation of USA and that they are now the owners of this trade mark in India.

Exclusion of hormone preparations from price control

*337. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kelkar Committee recommended exemption of all hormone preparations from price control;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these preparations are the monopoly of two or three drug companies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these companies are importing these drugs at very high prices; and

(d) what are the grounds adduced by the Committee for recommending the exclusion of these hormone drugs from price control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAI CHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (d) The recommendations of the Kelkar Committee regarding price control of Hormones preparations are as follows:—

"The WHO list of Hormones includes Adrenal hormones, Synthetic substitute, Estrogens, Progestogens, Insulins and other Antidiabetic agents and Thyroids hormones and Antithyroid drugs under this heading. Of this, it was decided to drop constraceptives and allied items from price control as family welfare is an important National Health Programme and Government makes this available at cheap prices under their various family welfare activities. Considering the recommendation of WHO and the usage pattern, the Committee adopted Hydrocortisene in price controlled category, Prednisolone and Dexamethasone were separately recommended for price control".

(b) and (c) In view of above, do not arise.

Quality of Coal supplied to plant of W.B.S.E.B.

*338. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Power Minister of West Bengal has complained that bad quality of coal has adversely affected the power generation at West Bengal State Electricity Board's Plants; and

(b) if so, what is the Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) No formal complaint has been received by the Government from the Power Minister of West Bengal about bad quality of coal supplied to West Bengal Power Stations. However, on 17.9.1987, Secretary (Power), Government of West Bengal talked to Chairman, Coal India Limited and informed that due to receipt of poor quality coal from Eastern Coalfields Limited, power generation has gone down resulting in load shedding. Coal India took up the matter with ECL for corrective action.

Power projects in Bihar

*339. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of different power projects in Bihar at various stages like sanction, construction and completion stages;